of steam coal has affected cermic industry in North India recently;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken/ proposed to be taken by the Government to supply adequate steams coal; and

(d) the number of new ceramic in open cast mines opened to raise production during non-rainy season in 1991?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) to (c). Government have been giving preference in allotment of railway wagons of movement of coal to priority sectors which include power, cement, steel, railways and fertilizers. Due to limited availability of railway wagons, coal movement by rail to other consumers including ceramic industries has been affected. Steps are being taken by the Government to increase production and despatch of coal with a view to improve its availability to all consumers including ceramic industries. Cermic industry generally insists on supply of coal from a few selected underground mines, whose production has not kept pace with increase in demand because of depletion of their coal reserves. If the industry were to eccept coal from other sources also, its level of satisfaction will be much higher.

(d) It is presumed that the Hon'ble Member is referring to opencast mines sanctioned in the country during the year 1991. During the year 1990-91 and 1991-92, Government have sanctioned 4 new large opencast coal mine projects in the country. These are in addition to the projects sanctioned by the coal companies themselves.

[*Translation*]

Illiteracy in Colliery Areas

3696. SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV

SHRI NANI BHATTACHARYA

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the illiteracy percentage is higher in colliery areas;

(b) if so, the area-wise details thereof; and

(c) the target fixed by the Government for removing illiteracy during the last three years and the extent to which these targets have been achieved?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Investments in Coal Companies

3697. SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the total investment made in the Coal Companies and subsidiarise during the last three years;

(b) whether most of the companies engaged in the coalfields have suffered losses during the said period; and

(c) if so, the reasons for incurring losses?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) Investment in the various coal companies including Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) and subsidiaries of Coal India Limited (CIL) during the last three years are given below:

(Rs. in crores)

Company	Investments		
	1988-89	1989-90	1990-91
Eastern Coalfields Limited	178.85	204.84	432.59
Bharat Coking Coal Limited	204.87	205.98	237.37
Northern Coalfields Limited	304.29	216.14	247.41
Western Coalfields Limited	158.37	153.68	144.52
South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	262.30	241.95	299.31
North Eastern Coalfields	7.67	7.00	6.62
Coal India Limited (HQ)	2.68	0.95	0.82
Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Limited	8.34	8.58	6.07
Dankuni Coal Complex	20.73	8.36	2.40
Total (CIL)	1282.81	1393.39	1655.14
Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL)	140.00	150.00	213.00

(b) Eastern Coalfields Limited and Bharat Coking Coal Limited have been losing continuously before adjustments under Coal Price Retention Account.

Singareni Collieries Company Limited have also been incurring loss.

(c) The main reasons for losses in both Eastern Coalfields Limited and Bharat Coking Coal Limited are predominance of high cost underground mines, difficult mining conditions, exhaustion of reserves and large work-force.

The main reasons for losses in Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. include higher percentage of production from the conventional Under Ground mines which are labour intensive, low productivity and high wage cost; Open Cast mines having high stripping ratio; industrial relation problems and law and order situation.

Targets of Coal Production by Central Coal fields.

3698. SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV:
SHRI ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the targats fixed for Central Coalfield